



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FORMER ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO FORGING CHECKS TOTALING \$57,000**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to depositing forged checks made payable to St. Mary's Hospital into her and her husband's personal checking account.

**Jewell E. Beem**, 61, of Independence, waived her right to an indictment and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to charges contained in a federal information.

By pleading guilty, **Beem** admitted that on numerous occasions she forged checks from several insurance companies made payable to St. Mary's Hospital of Blue Springs, Mo., and deposited them into her and her husband's checking account. The value of the forged checks totaled approximately \$57,124.99, Graves said. **Beem** admitted that she altered 43 checks between Oct. 2, 2000, and Jan. 29, 2002.

**Beem** was employed in the business office at St. Mary's Hospital from March 15, 1999, until May 6, 2002. During the course of her employment, **Beem** took insurance reimbursement checks received for patient care and either forged an endorsement for the hospital or changed the payee from St. Mary's Hospital to the name of her husband. **Beem** would then deposit the checks into her and her husband's personal account.

In order to conceal the fraudulent activity, Graves said, **Beem** would manipulate patient account information to prevent bills from being sent to the patients and further inquiries from the hospital to the insurance companies.

Under federal statutes, Graves said, **Beem** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. She also may be ordered

to pay restitution to St. Mary's Hospital. Her sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frances E. Reddis. It was investigated by the United States Secret Service.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)